
By: **Senator Stoltzfus**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2003

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - School Buses - Years of Operation**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the length of time a school bus may be operated; and
4 generally relating to the length of time a school bus may be operated.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article - Education
7 Section 7-804
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

12 **Article - Education**

13 7-804.

14 (a) Unless it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety
15 standards, a conventional school bus may be operated for [12] 15 years.

16 (b) Notwithstanding the [12-year] 15-YEAR limitation in subsection (a) of
17 this section, a conventional school bus may be operated for additional years if:

18 (1) The bus is maintained under a preventive maintenance plan
19 approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration and the Automotive Safety
20 Enforcement Division of the Department of State Police that includes an inspection at
21 the end of the [12th] 15TH year and a minimum of 2 inspections by the Motor Vehicle
22 Administration each year thereafter;

23 (2) Any structural repairs to the bus necessitated by accident, metal
24 fatigue, or any other cause are certified by an independent expert approved by the
25 Motor Vehicle Administration to meet or exceed the manufacturer's original
26 manufacturing standards;

27 (3) The bus is equipped with:

- 1 (i) The body originally placed on the bus chassis by the
2 manufacturer;
- 3 (ii) An 8 light warning system;
- 4 (iii) A left side stop arm;
- 5 (iv) A fire-retardant driver's seat;
- 6 (v) Fire-retardant barriers in the case of a bus with a front engine;
- 7 (vi) A fire-retardant rear seating area in the case of a bus with a
8 rear engine; and
- 9 (4) The State Superintendent grants approval.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2003.